

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating obstructive sleep apnea ~~of a patient~~, said method comprising:

identifying a patient as having obstructive sleep apnea;

selecting an implant sized to be implanted into a soft palate of said patient, said implant having characteristics for said implant to stiffen said soft palate;

implanting said implant into said tissue of said soft ~~implant-palate~~ to stiffen said soft palate.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said implant is a bolus of a particulate material selected for limited migration within said tissue and for encouraging a fibrotic response of tissue to said material.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said implant is a longitudinal implant of biocompatible material.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14 wherein said implant is a braid of biocompatible fibers.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said implant is selected to induce a fibrosis and said stiffening is associated at least in part with said fibrosis.